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profusion of fruit buds, even more than usual, owing no doubt to the depth to which the soil had become saturated by the unusually heavy rains of winter. We have, therefore, the phenomena of two crops of figs on the same tree, an early and a later, developed at the same time. I may remark that this is not a habit of the fig, as it is of some of the berries in temperate climates, which develop a series of buds and mature a succession of fruits through a considerable period of time.

GEORGE E. POST, M.D.

Beirut, *May* 26, 1880.

§ 49. **Aphyllon uniflorum**, T. & G.—My own observations during a number of years, and those of several members of the Club during the present season, seem to prove that, in our district, this parasitic plant grows on the roots of *Solidago*, only. It might not be out of place to request botanists of other sections to have an eye on the plant, in order to settle this question.

A close examination of the points of attachment shows that the suction-organs of *Aphyllon* (very small protuberances along the roots, or what corresponds to roots) consist entirely of parenchymatic tissue; its cells are large and roundish, only those cells that penetrate into the tissue of the foster plant are considerably elongated.

Comandra umbellata, Nutt., I found on blueberries; but as I ascertained this in a few instances only, I will not draw any conclusions. I just mention this plant to state that its suction organs differ widely from those of *Aphyllon*, by having well developed fibro-vascular bundles, the first ducts of which originate quite close to the tip of the organ. This difference, of course, will find its explanation in the different mode of assimilation that goes on in the two plants—the one being a true parasite, while the other has green foliage.

College Point, *June* 7, 1880.

JOS. SCHRENK.

§ 50. **Sassafras officinale**, Nees.—I noticed an unusually large sassafras tree standing on a farm near Newton, L. I., its circumference about $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 feet from the ground is 8 feet 6 inches. Two inches or so ought, perhaps, to be deducted, for several stems of *Ampelopsis* and *Rhus* climb up the trunk, which is well-formed and of nearly uniform thickness up to the lowest branches, at least 8 feet above the ground. The tree, in reference to height, presents the appearance of a large-sized stately oak; and, when covered all over with its shining yellow blossoms as it first caught my eye, is well worth seeing.

College Point, *June* 15.

JOS. SCHRENK.

§ 51. **Teratological Notes**.—Proliferation of the inflorescence in various species of *Plantago* seems to be of common occurrence in Europe and curious forms of it are occasionally noted in English periodicals. Dr. Masters, in his *Vegetable Teratology*, figures some of these and states that each species of this genus seems to have its own perverse mode of growth. Changes of this nature in our native and introduced species of plantains may be common, but accounts of them do not often find their way into print. A friend has specimens of *P. Rugelii* from Bloomfield, N. J., in which the upper part of the